

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

FEBRUARY 2004

ARRL TO PROPOSE NEW ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE, CODE-FREE HF ACCESS

Source: The ARRL Letter



Really faithful, Russ, AE4NY, and John, AB4GK demonstrate QRP for NOGA QRP at TechFest in Gwinnett. TechFest is a hands-on event hosted by GARS in January every year.

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals, put forth by the ARRL Executive Committee, were in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radio Communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" Harrison said the League's proposal would provide "a true entry-level license with HF privileges" to promote growth in the Amateur Service.

The League says its proposal would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in its Amateur Service license restructuring Report

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FCC ACKNOWLEDGES AMATEUR RADIO BPL CONCERNS

FCC'S ABERNATHY ACKNOWLEDGES AMATEUR RADIO BPL CONCERNS In a seeming shift away from "Broadband Nirvana," FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q.

Source:
ARRL Letter

Abernathy <<http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/>> this week specifically cited Amateur Radio concerns about the interference potential of Broadband Over Power Line (BPL). In remarks prepared for delivery at her alma mater, the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law <<http://www.law.edu/>>, Abernathy said BPL should not be widely deployed before dealing with ham radio's interference fears. "I recognize that Amateur Radio licensees have raised concerns about harmful interference," Abernathy said, "and that is something that will have to be addressed before any mass market deployment can occur." She addressed the convocation "The Journey to Convergence: Challenges and Opportunities" January 22 on the school's Washington, DC campus. Abernathy said that if engineers

law.edu/>, Abernathy said BPL should not be widely deployed before dealing with ham radio's interference fears. "I recognize that Amateur Radio licensees have raised concerns about harmful interference," Abernathy said, "and that is something that will have to be addressed before any mass market deployment can occur." She addressed the convocation "The Journey to Convergence: Challenges and Opportunities" January 22 on the school's Washington, DC campus. Abernathy said that if engineers

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Every Friday: Please join the Atlanta Radio Club for lunch Fridays around noon at the 5 Seasons Restaurant. At I-285 and Roswell Rd go south on Roswell Rd, 0.2 mile turn right. 5 Seasons Restaurant drive way is the first driveway past 1 Stop light. First stop light is Lake Placid Dr. After turning right go till dead end. Turn right and you are there.

THE ATLANTA HAM

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.



Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN:

Thursday February 5 , 2004
7:30PM

WHERE:

Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive –
Atlanta

PROGRAM:

**The American Radio Relay League
ARRL's Proposes New Entry-Level
License for Code-Free HF Access**
presented by the Southeastern Division
Vice Directory, Sandy Donahue W4RU

TALK IN:

146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER: The Picadilly Ansley Mall
Located 1/2 mile from Red Cross
On Monroe Drive

ARRL QSL Service reports card count down in 2003

ARRL LETTER

ARRL QSL Service reports card count down in 2003: ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Manager Martin Cook, N1FOC, reports that the number of QSL cards going out to DX stations from US operators was down in 2003. In his year-end report, he said the number of cards mailed as of December 31 was 1,358,474. "This is a decrease of 604,690 cards from 2002," he said.



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NEW ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE...

Source: The ARRL Letter

(Continued from page 1)

and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000. A new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The ARRL plan would grandfather current Novice licensees into the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, and the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture

the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.



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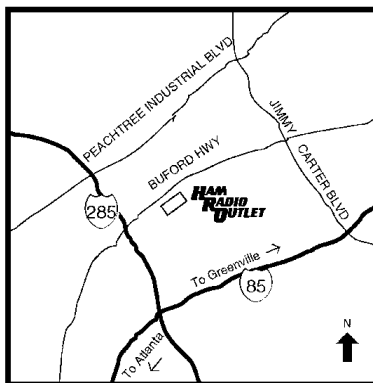
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METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm 2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Lilburn, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
4th Friday of Every Month at 7:00 pm
St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Rd
Contact: Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362
Headphones provided for CW tests.

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson St across from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 8:30 am Stone Mountain United Methodist Church, 5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2004

Always the 4th Saturday!

STARS – FEBRUARY, 12pm – 3pm SCITREK
Contact Penn. K4PE

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

Florida State Convention
Dade Radio Club Miami
www.hamboree.org
7-8 FEB 2004

Southeastern Division
Convention
Orlando ARC
http://www.oarc.org
FEB 13-15 2004

DixieFest 2004
Memphis TN
http://www.dixiefest.org
FEB 14-15 2004

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DixieFest Hamfest will happen, despite fire

Source: The ARRL Letter

Hamfest will happen, despite fire: Dixiefest 2004, the annual Memphis hamfest, will take place February 14-15 despite a fire in December that destroyed the Shelby County Building, the hamfest's home for the past few years. Dixiefest Committee members opted to move the event to the Pipkin Building which is also at the Mid-South Fairgrounds and only a few feet from the old location. "The fire created a big problem for the Dixiefest Committee," said Ben Troughton, event chairman, "but now that we have decided to move next door to the more modern Pipkin Building, I think we're going to continue our tradition and put together another great Dixiefest." Those planning to attend or sell at Dixiefest are invited to visit the event's Web site www.dixiefest.org

W4DOC Badges Available...

The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a SILVER background with BLUE letters and the CLUB LOGO in GOLD. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO; makes this name tag unique. Please use the "free text entry block" at the bottom of our order form to indicate the Atlanta ARC badge. The Atlanta ARC badge is \$8.75 (includes s&h).

Locking safety pin - included with badge

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Supply rocket sans ham gear to arrive at International Space

Supply rocket sans ham gear to arrive at International Space Station: NASA says the next Russian Progress supply

rocket will arrive at the International Space Station January 31. NASA Television will broadcast the event starting at 7:30 AM Eastern Time. On hand to greet and unload the unmanned rocket--the 13th spacecraft to resupply the space station--will be Expedition 8 crew Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Sasha Kaleri, U8MIR. The Progress, carrying 2.5 tons of food, fuel and supplies, is scheduled to launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on January 29. Not aboard the Progress will be additional Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) SSTV equipment and a Yaesu FT-100D HF/VHF/UHF multimode transceiver that ARISS had hoped might be able to go into space aboard this Progress flight. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the gear likely will be transported to the ISS during an April Progress resupply flight instead. ARISS-JA made arrangements for the donation of the Yaesu transceiver and of a Kenwood TM-D700E VHF/UHF transceiver now on board the ISS and installed in a second NA1SS amateur station in the crew's quarters. Bauer expressed his gratitude to both manufacturers for donating the gear. ARISS is an international educational outreach program with participation by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

SOURCE: The ARRL Letter



A progress supply rocket as viewed from the ISS. [NASA Photo]

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 720398 Atlanta, GA 30358

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FCC Recognizes BPL ...

(Continued from page 1)

can find a way to prevent harmful interference to other radio services, BPL would represent "a tremendous advance for consumers, because it could bring broadband to any home that has electricity." In her speech, "Overview of the Road to Convergence: New Realities Collide with Old Rules," Abernathy called BPL "another promising technology" that electric utilities have already successfully field tested. As an "add-on service to the existing electrical grid," she said, BPL might be a cost-effective alternative to provide broadband service to rural and other "underserved communities." Missing from her remarks was any mention of interference worries that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) have expressed to the FCC in the BPL proceeding. Abernathy drew fire from the Amateur Radio community last September after she expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL in a talk before the United Powerline Council's <<http://www.uplc.utc.org/>> annual conference. In that talk, she'd suggested that BPL was a step along the pathway to "Broadband Nirvana." The ARRL led the barrage of strong objections in the wake of Abernathy's characterization. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that preliminary testing already had established BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution" and that BPL could not be implemented without causing harmful interference to radio services. Abernathy's office later conceded that her "Broadband Nirvana" speech may have failed to make sufficiently clear her concerns about potential BPL interference. More than 5100 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI and are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

DX operations approved for DXCC credit Source: The ARRL Letter

DX operations approved for DXCC credit: The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: Iraq, YI/N2OBM, starting January 2004, YI9ABL, starting December 2003, YI3Q, starting January 2004, YI9YMA, starting January 2004, and YI9ZF, starting January 2004; Uganda, 5X2A, July 29, 2003-July 1, 2004; Afghanistan, YA4F, September 2003-April 2004, and YA8G, December 14, 2003-January 31, 2004; and Europa Island, TO4E and TO4WW, November 25-December 21, 2003. To learn more, visit the DXCC Web site for information on program rules, current and deleted DXCC lists and all forms needed to participate, or contact



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MEETING NOTICE - THURS. FEBUARY 5, 2004